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THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

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THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

BACKGROUND

The conflict in Abkhazia, strategically located on the Black Sea in the northwestern region of the Republic of Georgia, began with social unrest and the attempts by the local authorities to separate from the Republic. It escalated into a series of armed confrontations in the summer of 1992 when the Government of Georgia, concluding that the railway and certain communication links had to be protected, deployed 2,000 Georgian troops in Abkhazia. Fierce fighting broke out on 14 August 1992 when the Georgian troops entered Abkhazia, resulting in some 200 dead and hundreds wounded. The Abkhaz leadership abandoned the Abkhaz capital of Sukhumi and retreated to the town of Gudauta.

The relations between the Abkhaz and the Georgians have been tense for decades. Historically, the Abkhaz attempted many times to separate from the Republic of Georgia. Most recently, in August 1990, the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet declared Abkhazia a sovereign republic of the Soviet Union independent of Georgia. This was immediately annulled by the Georgian Supreme Soviet.

As a compromise for remaining in the Republic of Georgia, the Abkhaz were given disproportionate representation in the Supreme Council of Abkhazia. At that time, of the total population in Abkhazia of 540,000, only about 18 per cent were Abkhaz. The majority was Georgian (about 47 per cent), and others included Armenians (about 18 per cent) and Russians (about 13 per cent). In December 1991, a new Supreme Council was elected, which allocated 28 seats to the Abkhaz, 26 seats to the Georgians and 11 seats to the remaining 35 per cent of the population. This did not ease the tension between the Abkhaz and Georgians. The Supreme Council split into two opposing factions, and for all intents and purposes, it ceased to function.

THE 1992 CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT

A cease-fire agreement was reached on 3 September 1992 in Moscow by the Republic of Georgia, the leadership of Abkhazia and the Russian Federation. The agreement stipulated that "the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia shall be ensured". It also set out, as the basis of the peace settlement, a cease-fire to take effect as of 5 September 1992; the establishment of a Monitoring and Inspection Commission composed of representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia and the Russian Federation to ensure compliance with the agreement; the disarming and withdrawal of all illegal armed formations that had come from outside Georgia; the reduction of the armed forces of Georgia in Abkhazia to an agreed number required to protect railway and certain other installations; the exchange of detainees, prisoners and hostages by 10 September 1992; the removal of all impediments to the free movement of goods and persons; the return of refugees to their homes; the search for missing persons; and the resumption of the normal functions by the legitimate authorities of Abkhazia by 15 September 1992.

The agreement also included an appeal to the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) [now redesignated the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)] to assist in the implementation of the peace settlement.

In a related development, on 10 September 1992, the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to inform the Council periodically of the developments in Abkhazia.

SITUATION DETERIORATES

The agreement was never fully implemented. Both sides accused one another of continuing to violate the cease-

fire. The situation remained very tense, as confirmed by the United Nations mission to the region from 12 to 20 September 1992. On 1 October 1992, the cease-fire collapsed, and the fighting resumed in all areas. The Abkhaz forces, supported by fighters from the North Caucasus region, quickly captured the major towns, and threatened to bring nearly 80 per cent of Abkhazia, including the capital city of Sukhumi, under their control. The raging fighting forced some 30,000 civilians to flee across the border to the Russian Federation. The parties to the conflict accused one another of human rights violations committed against the civilian population.

By November 1992, the outbreak of inter-ethnic fighting in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation added another dimension to the already tense situation in the area.

UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS

The United Nations sought to revive the peace process by diplomatic means. In carrying out peacemaking efforts, the United Nations consulted with the CSCE so as to ensure effective coordination of activities. The Secretary-General sent a second mission in mid-October 1992 to explore specific ways in which the United Nations could support the implementation of the 3 September agreement, including the possible deployment of civilian and/or military observers. Two United Nations civilian personnel remained on the spot to provide an initial United Nations presence.

In November 1992, an integrated United Nations office opened in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, further strengthening the local United Nations presence. The office, which was initially composed of development and public information components, was to provide an integrated United Nations approach in the region and to assist in all aspects of the peacemaking efforts of the Secretary-General.

Furthermore, following a request from the Government of Georgia, a United Nations inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission visited Georgia from 30 January to 16 February 1993. The mission, which was coordinated by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, included representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Based on the findings of the inter-agency mission, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs issued a consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance for Georgia with total requirements of $20.9 million through December 1993.

On 11 May 1993, the Secretary-General stated that dispatching another United Nations mission at that time "would not be an adequate approach in attempting to revive the peace process", adding that "a more concentrated effort is needed for the establishment of a lasting cease-fire and for the resumption of a process of political negotiation".

SPECIAL ENVOY APPOINTED

On the same day, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Edouard Brunner, a national of Switzerland, as his Special Envoy for Georgia for an initial period of three months. Mr. Brunner's tasks, based on the 1992 agreement, were to obtain agreement on a cease-fire; to assist the parties in reviving the process of negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict; and to enlist the support of neighbouring countries and others concerned in achieving the above objectives. The Special Envoy was to consult closely with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE.

DEPLOYMENT RECOMMENDED

The mission undertaken by the Special Envoy for Georgia, from 20 to 31 May 1993, reaffirmed that all parties supported an active role by the United Nations in reaching a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Abkhazia. The Secretary-General held the view, endorsed by the Security Council, that an integrated peace package should be implemented, which pursued a solution on three tracks: consolidation of the cease-fire; the launching of a political negotiating process; and support for these two processes by the neighbouring

countries, particularly the Russian Federation, which had been active in mediating the conflict.

To this end, the Secretary-General proposed the deployment of United Nations military observers, as well as the holding of a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. When the Special Envoy presented the Secretary-General's approach during his mission, it was determined that the Republic of Georgia fully supported all aspects of the approach; the Abkhaz side favoured the conference but not, at the time, the deployment of military observers; and the Russian Federation favoured the deployment of United Nations military observers, but had reservations about the conference.

In his report to the Security Council on 1 July 1993, the Secretary-General, while acknowledging the risks "of dangers inherent in deploying United Nations personnel to an area where an agreed cease-fire is not being respected", asserted that such a move "is justified in the present case given the urgent need to get the conflict in Abkhazia under control", thereby seeking the authorization of the Security Council to deploy United Nations military observers as soon as practicable.

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground deteriorated even further. A cease-fire had been agreed to on 14 May 1993 and came into effect on 20 May 1993, but it held for only two weeks. Between 2 and 7 July 1993, hospitals in the area of fighting reported that 77 Georgian soldiers were killed and 481 wounded; during the same period 6 civilians were killed and 43 wounded. Two hundred fifty wounded Abkhaz were reportedly counted in one hospital in Gudauta by an independent observer.

The Secretary-General informed the Security Council that "given this very serious deterioration in the military situation, I believe that it would not be wise to proceed with the actual deployment of 50 military observers, as proposed in my report, until the cease-fire has been re-established and is being respected".

On 9 July 1993, the Security Council adopted resolution 849 (1993), by which it approved the deployment of military observers as soon as the cease-fire was implemented. The Secretary-General, who was asked to make necessary preparations and to notify the Council when conditions permitted the deployment of the observers, announced, on 19 July, that he was sending a technical planning mission to the area.

CEASE-FIRE IS REACHED

On 27 July 1993, a new agreement was concluded, through the mediation efforts of the Russian Federation, between the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities in Gudauta, which re-established a cease-fire as of 28 July. The agreement provided for the immediate commencement of phased demilitarization of the conflict zone. To monitor this process, international observers were to be deployed within 10 to 15 days of the date of the cease-fire.

On 6 August, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council that "conditions now prevail which permit the deployment of the proposed military observer mission". Based on the report of the technical planning team which had been in Georgia from 19 to 26 July, the Secretary-General concluded that an expanded mandate and additional military observers than had been previously envisaged "would strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations observation mission considerably", and recommended the deployment of 88 military observers and supporting staff without delay. On the same day, the Security Council, by resolution 854 (1993), unanimously authorized the Secretary-General's 4 August request to send an advance team of up to 10 observers to help verify compliance with the cease-fire.

ADVANCE TEAM IS DEPLOYED

An advance team of 9 military observers and 8 civilian support staff arrived in Abkhazia on 8 August 1993 and established its headquarters in the city of Sukhumi. Soon after its arrival, and in agreement with both parties, the advance team initiated regular road patrols in the conflict area in order to monitor compliance with the cease-fire agreed upon on 27 July. As envisaged in the

cease-fire agreement, the observers conducting these patrols established liaison with the tripartite Georgian-Abkhaz-Russian interim monitoring groups responsible for the supervision of the cease-fire on the ground. Following the establishment of the tripartite "Joint Commission" on 5 August, the leader of the team participated in its work on a regular basis in an observer capacity. The initial reports received from the team during the month of August confirmed that the cease-fire was holding.

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNOMIG

On 24 August, the Security Council, by its resolution 858 (1993), decided to establish the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), comprising up to 88 military observers, plus minimal civilian staff necessary to support the Mission, with the following mandate: to verify compliance with the cease-fire agreement of 27 July with special attention to the situation in the city of Sukhumi; to investigate reports of cease-fire violations and to attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved; and to report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of its mandate, including, in particular, violations of the cease-fire agreement.

The Council also decided that UNOMIG was established for a period of six months subject to the proviso that it would be extended beyond the initial 90 days "only upon a review by the Council based on a report from the Secretary-General whether or not substantive progress had been made towards implementing measures aimed at establishing a lasting peace". It requested the Secretary-General, through his Special Envoy, to pursue efforts to facilitate the peace process and negotiations towards the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict.

CEASE-FIRE BREAKS DOWN

While UNOMIG was still in the early stages of deployment, the cease-fire broke down on 16 September 1993, when Abkhaz forces, with armed support from outside Abkhazia, launched attacks on Sukhumi and Ochamchira. Notwithstanding the call by the President of the Security Council in his statement of 17 September for the immediate cessation of hostilities and his condemnation of the violation of the cease-fire by the Abkhaz side, fighting continued. As a result of the intensity of the shelling and other hostilities, the UNOMIG observers were obliged to suspend all patrols as of 17 September.

In the next few days, the military situation developed rapidly, with loss of life among the local civilian population. The Georgian authorities made appeals for assistance to the Russian Federation, to the CSCE and to the United Nations Secretary-General. The Abkhaz side ignored all calls to halt the military action, and occupied the city of Sukhumi on 27 September.

Following the breakdown of the cease-fire, further deployment of UNOMIG was suspended. The strength of UNOMIG in Sukhumi was limited to four military observers, including the Chief Military Observer, and four civilians. Seven observers remained in Sochi, a city on the territory of the Russian Federation, where they were when the hostilities resumed. One observer remained in Tbilisi.

SECRETARY-GENERAL REVIEWS SITUATION

The Secretary-General, in his 7 October 1993 report to the Security Council, stated that UNOMIG's mandate had been invalidated as a result of the general breakdown of the cease-fire and the collapse of the tripartite machinery responsible for its implementation. He also reported that, as a matter of priority, he was exploring with the parties and with the Russian Federation the possible need for and usefulness of the continuing presence of UNOMIG with a "revised mandate adapted to the radically changed circumstances".

In the meantime, the Secretary-General proposed maintaining the existing strength of UNOMIG in Sukhumi, where the Chief Military Observer had already established contact with Abkhaz military and civilian officials. He was assured of their cooperation and that UNOMIG would enjoy freedom of movement in monitoring the situation there.

The Secretary-General intended to consult with the parties and with the Russian Federation, and to present to the Security Council his recommendations relating both to the future of UNOMIG and to the political aspects of the United Nations role in trying to end the conflict in Abkhazia.

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTS

By its resolution 876 (1993) adopted on 19 October, the Security Council reaffirmed its condemnation of the violation by Abkhaz forces of the cease-fire agreement, and their subsequent violations of international humanitarian law. It also condemned the killing of the Chairman of the Defence Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, and demanded that all parties to the conflict refrain from the use of force and from any violations of international humanitarian law. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send a fact-finding mission to Georgia, in particular to investigate reports of "ethnic cleansing".

The Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the CSCE Chairman-in-Office and with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, to promote efforts to achieve an overall political settlement. While welcoming the humanitarian assistance already provided to victims of the conflict, the Council urged Member States to contribute to relief efforts being carried out by international aid agencies.

FACT-FINDING MISSION VISITS ABKHAZIA

A fact-finding mission to investigate the situation of human rights in Abkhazia visited the area from 22 to 30 October 1993. In its report, which was submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on 17 November 1993, the mission noted "numerous and serious" human rights violations committed in Abkhazia since the outbreak of the armed conflict in August 1992. Civilians, including women, children and elderly persons, as well as combatants who were no longer actively participating in armed confrontations were victims of violations of the right to life and physical integrity, of the right to personal security and of property rights. The victims included members of all ethnic groups inhabiting Abkhazia.

According to the report, both Georgian government forces and Abkhazian forces, as well as irregulars and civilians cooperating with them were responsible for such human rights violations. In addition to the loss of numerous lives, the conflict had led to the almost complete devastation of vast areas and the massive displacement of population.

In concluding its report, the fact-finding mission recommended a number of measures to be undertaken by the parties in order to restore human rights in the territory of Abkhazia.

THREE-MONTH EXTENSION AUTHORIZED

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council on 27 October 1993 that his Special Envoy for Georgia had had discussions in Geneva with Abkhaz and Georgian representatives. He had also been invited for discussions in early November with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister. In view of those developments, the Secretary-General said that he was planning for his Special Envoy to hold a first round of discussions with both parties in late November 1993, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the Russian Federation present as facilitator. The CSCE would also be invited to attend as a participant. The discussions would focus on the question of a political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

As for UNOMIG, the Secretary-General recommended that the Mission be continued at its existing strength of four military observers with minimal support staff in Sukhumi for a further three months. A fifth military observer would continue to provide liaison services in Tbilisi. He observed that UNOMIG had established good relations with Abkhaz officials in Sukhumi and had been able to conduct patrols in the city. The Mission's continued presence in its existing form and size would

give the population visible evidence of international concern.

Since UNOMIG's original mandate had been invalidated by the fighting in Abkhazia in September, the Secretary-General recommended that the Mission have an interim mandate to maintain contacts with both sides to the conflict and with Russian military contingents, and to monitor and report on the situation, with particular reference to developments relevant to United Nations efforts to promote a comprehensive political settlement.

On 4 November 1993, the Security Council, by its resolution 881 (1993), welcomed the Secretary-General's report of 27 October 1993 and approved the continued presence of UNOMIG in Georgia until 31 January 1994. It also decided that UNOMIG would not be extended beyond that date unless the Secretary-General reported that substantive progress had been made towards implementing measures aimed at establishing a lasting peace or that the peace process would be served by the prolongation of its mandate.

PROGRESS IN TALKS REPORTED

On 16 December 1993, the Secretary-General, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, informed the Council that a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by the parties to the conflict on 1 December 1993 in Geneva in the presence of representatives of the United Nations, the Russian Federation and the CSCE. The Memorandum covered three vital areas — political, humanitarian and war damage issues — and included major commitments towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict: not to use force or threat of force against each other for the period of continuing negotiations; to exchange prisoners of war and assist in finding those missing before 20 December 1993; and to return hundreds of thousands of refugees, as well as occupied homes and properties.

The Secretary-General believed that the signing of the Memorandum manifested encouraging progress towards lasting peace in the area. He therefore recommended that the Council authorize the deployment of up to 50 additional military observers, together with a minimal number of civilian support staff. A reinforced UNOMIG would be better placed to ascertain the actual conditions on the ground, and to plan and prepare for a further expansion beyond the 50, should the next round of negotiations scheduled in January 1994 warrant it.

By its resolution 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, the Security Council welcomed the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding and authorized the phased deployment of additional military observers as recommended by the Secretary-General.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

A second round of negotiations, chaired by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, took place in Geneva from 11 to 13 January 1994. On the last day of the talks, the representatives of the Abkhaz and Georgian sides signed a communiqué.

In the communiqué, the parties noted that the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding were, for the most part, being implemented. An exchange of prisoners had taken place on the principle of "all for all"; representatives of UNHCR had carried out a first preparatory visit; and on 15 and 16 December 1993 a group of experts had met in Moscow to prepare recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment not to use force or the threat of force against each other. They agreed that the deployment of a full-scale peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia would contribute to the establishment of favourable conditions for further progress towards a political settlement and the practical implementation of agreements. They also made further statements on a number of military aspects. It was agreed that the third round of negotiations would be held on 22 February 1994.

OPTIONS BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Secretary-General, in his 25 January 1994 report to the Security Council on the diplomatic efforts and the

situation in Abkhazia, recommended that the Council maintain UNOMIG with its existing mandate and strength of up to 55 military observers for a limited period to 15 March 1994. That would permit time for further consultations and, in particular, for the parties to demonstrate their willingness to make substantive progress on the political issues facing them.

The Secretary-General postponed making a substantive recommendation on an expanded international military presence in Abkhazia. However, he emphasized that should the Council decide, in the existing circumstances, that an enlarged international military presence in Abkhazia was desirable both to consolidate the cease-fire and to create conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons, that presence could take a number of possible forms. Two options, in particular, were discussed with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy and with the group of Member States that had constituted themselves as the "Friends of Georgia" (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States).

Under the first option, the Council could establish a traditional United Nations peace-keeping force of some 2,500 troops, under United Nations command and control, to operate initially in the areas of the Gali region and the Inguri and Psou rivers. It would aim to carry out an effective separation of forces, monitor the disarmament and withdrawal of armed units, and help create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

Under the second option, the Council could authorize a multinational force, not under United Nations command, consisting of contingents made available by interested Member States, including the Russian Federation, to carry out the same functions. UNOMIG would be entrusted with the tasks of monitoring the operations of the force, liaising with the local authorities in Abkhazia and observing developments on the ground. By a preliminary estimate, in this option UNOMIG would require up to 200 military observers, with the necessary civilian support.

On 31 January 1994, the Security Council, by its resolution 896 (1994), extended the mandate of UNOMIG until 7 March 1994 within the numbers authorized in resolution 892 (1993), which called for deployment of 50 additional observers. It urged the parties to demonstrate stronger willingness to achieve progress towards a comprehensive political settlement. Declaring its readiness to act before 7 March upon any recommendation to further increase the strength of UNOMIG, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report immediately following the third round of negotiations on whatever progress had been made in the negotiations and on the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force.

FURTHER POLITICAL EFFORTS

The third round of negotiations, chaired by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, took place in Geneva from 22 to 25 February 1994. By the final day of the negotiations, the Chairman put forward a draft political declaration, most of which was acceptable to both parties. There remained, however, a significant difference over the issue of the territorial integrity of Georgia and the relationship of Abkhazia to Georgia. The Abkhaz side declined to sign any document that included recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity.

In a separate working group, chaired by UNHCR, agreement was reached on all the text of the draft quadripartite agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, except for one phrase referring to whether immunity should apply to persons who had taken part in hostilities and who continued to pose a real threat to security.

Despite every effort to find a compromise, neither of the two documents was signed and the Chairman suspended the third round of negotiations in order to give the parties time for reflection. It was decided that the session should be resumed at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 March 1994.

The Secretary-General, in his report submitted to the Security Council on 3 March 1994, stated that the Security Council's requirement for substantive progress in the political negotiations had not yet been met. Furthermore, he reported a new outbreak of hostilities in early February 1994 in the Gali district of Abkhazia.

Having said that the deployment of an international military presence could contribute to much needed stability in the area, the Secretary-General stated, however, that the conditions for making it possible did not exist at that time. He strongly urged the parties to make necessary compromises at the resumed negotiations on 7 March in order to avoid further fighting and to permit planning for a peace-keeping operation. In the meantime, the Secretary-General recommended a short extension of UNOMIG under the existing mandate.

By its resolution 901 (1994) of 4 March, the Security Council decided to extend UNOMIG's mandate for an additional interim period terminating on 31 March 1994.

DIFFERENCES REMAIN

The negotiations were resumed on 7 March in New York and lasted until 9 March. As it had been in previous sessions, representatives of the Russian Federation participated with the status of facilitator. The talks were also attended by representatives of the CSCE and of UNHCR.

Despite three days of intensive discussions, however, the parties to the conflict remained far apart on three major issues: recognition of the territorial integrity of Georgia, the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, and the role and area of deployment of a possible peace-keeping force.

On 18 March 1994, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council that developments in the latest round of negotiations gave no reason to alter the judgement he had expressed earlier, namely that conditions that would make it possible to plan and deploy an international peace-keeping force with an achievable mandate did not exist.

He further stated that the negotiation process was greatly complicated by the absence of any spirit of reconciliation between the two sides. In addition, it had not been possible to identify measures that might create a "more propitious climate for efforts to resolve issues that at present seem intractable". The level of tension in the area remained high and there was an increasing risk of return to war.

The Secretary-General stressed that although conditions for the deployment of a peace-keeping force did not exist and negotiations were suspended, the international community should not abandon its efforts to assist the parties to find the road to peace. He informed the Council of his intention to ask his Special Envoy to resume contacts with the parties, as well as with the Russian Federation. The Secretary-General recommended that the mandate of UNOMIG should be extended for a further three months and that its strength of 22 military observers should be maintained.

On 25 March 1994, the Security Council, by its resolution 906 (1994), urged the parties to resume the negotiations as soon as possible and to achieve substantive progress towards a political settlement, including the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. The Council extended the mandate of UNOMIG for an additional interim period terminating on 30 June 1994.

TWO DOCUMENTS SIGNED

On 4 April 1994, at resumed negotiations held in Moscow, the representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides signed two documents: the "Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict" and the "Quadripartite agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons".

By signing the Declaration, the parties committed themselves to a formal cease-fire and also reaffirmed their commitment to the non-use of force or threat of the use of force against each other. By other provisions of the document, the parties reaffirmed their request for the early deployment of a peace-keeping operation and for

the participation of a Russian military contingent in the United Nations peace-keeping force. They also appealed to the Security Council to expand the mandate of UNOMIG.

In the Quadripartite Agreement, signed by the parties and by the Russian Federation and UNHCR, the parties agreed to "cooperate and interact in planning and conducting the activities aimed to safeguard and guarantee the safe, secure and dignified return of people who had fled from areas of the conflict zone to the areas of their previous permanent residence".

The Security Council, in a statement by its President on 8 April, considered the signing of the two documents as an encouraging event, laying the basis for further progress towards the settlement of the conflict. The Council supported a further increase in the deployed strength of UNOMIG up to the limit specified in resolution 892 (1993), if the Secretary-General considered that the conditions on the ground made that appropriate. It stressed the need for progress on a political settlement in the next round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Georgia.

CEASE-FIRE AND SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT

Following the signature of the two documents, further negotiations were held in three areas: repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force; and the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict.

In his report of 3 May on a further round of negotiations, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had expressed readiness to send a peace-keeping force to the region should the Security Council decide not to send a comparable United Nations force. The Secretary-General noted that the necessary pre-conditions for the establishment of a United Nations presence had not been achieved as of the time of the report. In light of that fact, the Secretary-General proposed three broad options for the Council to consider, one of which included the acceptance of the CIS offer to deploy a peace-keeping force. He then recommended that, if the Council accepted the CIS offer, it should decide to continue the United Nations efforts towards a comprehensive political settlement, and have UNOMIG monitor the operation of the CIS force.

Following further talks, the Georgian and Abkhaz sides signed in Moscow on 14 May the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces. The parties agreed that a CIS peace-keeping force would be deployed to monitor compliance with the Agreement. They also appealed to the Security Council to "expand the mandate of the United Nations military observers in order to provide for their participation in the operations" envisaged under the Agreement. From 23 to 26 May 1994, the United Nations Secretariat held technical discussions with representatives of the Russian Federation for the purpose of clarifying the possible role of the United Nations observers and their relationship with the CIS peace-keeping force. In his 6 June report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General provided details of those discussions and sought an early indication of the views of the members of the Council. He also informed it of his intention, as a first step, to increase the number of military observers of UNOMIG to 55, as authorized by resolution 892 (1994).

In a letter dated 16 June, the President of the Council informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Council regarded the discussions with representatives of the Russian Federation as a positive step, that they noted his intention to increase the number of UNOMIG military observers, and that they stood ready to consider the Secretary-General's detailed recommendations on the expansion of UNOMIG, following his further consultations with the parties concerned.

On the same day, the Secretary-General reported to the Security Council that he was continuing his urgent consultations and recommended that the existing mandate of UNOMIG be extended for a period of one month. He also informed the Council on the preparations for the voluntary return of refugees and displaced

persons and on the further efforts to achieve a political settlement in Abkhazia.

UNOMIG's mandate was extended until 21 July by Council resolution 934 (1994) of 30 June 1994.

UNOMIG'S MANDATE EXPANDED

In his 12 July report, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council of the results of his consultations with the Georgian and Abkhaz authorities, representatives of the Russian Federation and the CIS peace-keeping force. On the basis of those consultations, he recommended that the Council expand UNOMIG and extend its mandate for a period of six months.

The tasks of the expanded UNOMIG would be as follows: (a) to monitor and verify the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces; (b) to observe the operation of the CIS peace-keeping force; (c) to verify that troops do not remain in or re-enter the security zone and that heavy military equipment does not remain or is not reintroduced in the security zone or the restricted weapons zone; (d) to monitor the storage areas for heavy military equipment withdrawn from the security zone and restricted weapons zone; (e) to monitor the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the Kodori valley to places beyond the frontiers of Abkhazia; (f) to patrol regularly the Kodori valley; (g) to investigate reported or alleged violations of the Agreement and attempt to resolve such incidents.

According to the Secretary-General's recommendation, the expanded UNOMIG would maintain its headquarters in Sukhumi and would establish three sector headquarters — in Sukhumi, Gali and Zugdidi — and a liaison office in Tbilisi. To perform its monitoring functions effectively, UNOMIG would need a combination of static teams and mobile patrols. Helicopter patrols would be conducted of mountainous and less accessible areas.

The Secretary-General envisaged that UNOMIG would require a total strength of 136 military personnel, including the necessary medical personnel, supported by international and local civilian staff.

UNOMIG would operate independently of but in close cooperation and coordination with the CIS peace-keeping force. The Mission also would maintain close contacts with both parties and military contingents of the Russian Federation in the zone of conflict.

In summarizing the latest developments in Abkhazia, the Secretary- General said that the situation on the ground was relatively calm and had improved with the arrival of the CIS peace-keeping force. The situation in the Kodori valley, however, remained tense. Preparations were proceeding for the start of the programme of the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons.

With regard to political aspects, the Secretary-General noted that his Special Envoy had visited the area for discussions with both sides. His visit was followed by a further round of political negotiations held in Sochi on 7 and 8 July 1994.

On 21 July, the Security Council, by its resolution 937 (1994), expanded the mandate of UNOMIG, as recommended by the Secretary-General, decided to increase the strength of the Mission to up to 136 military observers, and extended the period of the mandate until 13 January 1995.

By other provisions of the resolution, the Council, *inter alia*, welcomed the contribution made by the Russian Federation, and indications of further contributions from other members of the CIS, of a peace-keeping force, and requested the Secretary-General to establish an appropriate arrangement for delineating the respective roles and responsibilities of UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force. It also called upon the parties to intensify their efforts to achieve an early and comprehensive political settlement.

DIFFERENCES REMAIN

A further round of political negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, convened by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, took place at Geneva from 31 August to 2 September 1994. The discussions

focused on refugee issues, military aspects concerning the Kodori valley and political matters.

Regarding refugee matters, a statement was signed recognizing that returnees would be informed through UNHCR about the Abkhaz requirement to comply with the laws in force in Abkhazia. With regard to political questions, both sides were given a non-paper outlining political and legal elements for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, which had been drafted by the Special Envoy in collaboration with the CSCE and the Russian Federation. Negotiations in the Quadripartite Commission, established on 1 June 1994 and comprised of both parties to the conflict, the Russian Federation and UNHCR, proved difficult and progress was slow. Despite all efforts, the organized return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia had not yet commenced. Differences remained, particularly regarding conditions and the rhythm of repatriation.

However, during the 8th meeting of the Commission, held at Sochi on 28 September, the parties reached a consensus on the need to restore the necessary security conditions in the area where refugees were to return and on the choice of adequate measures to do so. Following that meeting, the Abkhaz authorities accepted the first group of 100 repatriation applications concerning 460 persons, out of a total of approximately 7,000 applications concerning 26,000 persons.

The large number of mines remaining in the area was also hampering the return of refugees. After an assessment mission undertaken in August, UNHCR began preparation of a mine awareness education programme aimed at improving security conditions.

In his 14 October report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General stated that political progress had been slow. The Abkhaz unwillingness to accept an early return of refugees had created significant difficulties and contributed to holding up progress on other questions. He hoped that sufficient agreement had been reached to achieve progress on the refugee situation. If so, it would allow his Special Envoy to concentrate efforts on negotiating the political status of Abkhazia which is a core question of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

As to the situation on the ground, the Secretary-General reported that the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities had largely complied with the 14 May Agreement. All armed forces and heavy military equipment were withdrawn from the security zone, and no heavy military equipment remained in the restricted weapons zone. All volunteer formations from outside the boundaries of Abkhazia were disbanded.

In the Kodori valley, in accordance with the Agreement, troops of the Republic of Georgia were withdrawn to their places of deployment beyond the boundaries of Abkhazia as confirmed by UNOMIG.

Referring to the activities of UNOMIG, the Secretary-General stated that it was operating in the security and restricted weapons zones and in the Kodori valley, and was monitoring the weapons storage sites. Patrols were being conducted either by UNOMIG observers or jointly with personnel from the CIS peace-keeping force. The Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities were cooperating with the Mission. As to cooperation with the CIS peace-keeping force, the Secretary-General noted that it was proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

ABKHAZIA ADOPTS A CONSTITUTION

A further round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties was held on 15–18 November 1994 in Geneva under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, but ended without any agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons as well as little substantive progress on political matters.[1/]

There were also plans to convene a larger meeting, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, involving the Chairman of the Parliament, the Head of State of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Abkhaz leader, Vladislav Ardzinba, the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Andrei Kozyrev, and the Chairman of the CSCE, Foreign Minister of Italy, Antonio Martino.

The political process, however, suffered a setback when on 26 November the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia

adopted a constitution declaring Abkhazia a "sovereign democratic State". The Supreme Soviet, in a statement issued the same day, declared that "Abkhazia ... is not breaking off the process of negotiations with Georgia, but is prepared to pursue it with a view to the establishment of a union State of two equal subjects, and it proposes that the process should be invigorated".

The Head of State of Georgia requested the President of the Security Council to convene urgently a meeting of the Council "since recent events in the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic" might have "unforeseeable consequences and lead to further escalation of the conflict". He stated that he expected that "swift and dramatic measures" would be taken by the Council "to curb the aggressive separatism".

After a meeting convened on 2 December 1994, the Security Council, in a statement by its President, said that any unilateral act purporting to establish "a sovereign Abkhaz entity" would violate the commitments assumed by the Abkhaz side in the search for a comprehensive political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and called upon all parties, in particular the Abkhaz side, to reach substantive progress in the negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

The Abkhaz leader, Mr. Ardzinba, was "inaugurated" "President of the Republic" on 6 December 1994.

On 6 January 1995, prior to the expiry of UNOMIG's mandate on 13 January, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council his further report on the situation in Abkhazia. He described the political process as being at a standstill. The core question of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict — the identification of a political status for Abkhazia acceptable to both sides — remained far from being resolved. The security situation had continued to prevent a successful resolution of the humanitarian problems of the refugees and displaced persons. Also missing were the basic elements of stability and security that were essential for the eventual return of normalcy to the peoples of the region.

As to UNOMIG, the Secretary-General reported that the Mission had reached its full authorized strength of 136 military observers and had continued to fulfil its tasks as mandated by the Security Council in resolution 937 (1994). It operated mainly in the security and restricted weapons zones and in the Kodori valley. It also monitored the weapons storage sites on both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides. The activities of UNOMIG were closely coordinated with the CIS peacekeeping force.

Having said that the mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force would end on 15 May 1995, the Secretary-General recommended to the Council that it extend UNOMIG's mandate until that date.

On 12 January 1995, the Security Council, by its resolution 971 (1995), decided to extend the mandate of UNOMIG for an additional period terminating on 15 May 1995, and requested the Secretary-General to report within two months of the adoption of the resolution on all aspects of the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia. The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. It called upon the parties to comply with their commitments with regard to the return of refugees and displaced persons and, in particular, urged the Abkhaz side to accelerate the process significantly.

NEGOTIATIONS RESUME

In an effort to make progress towards a comprehensive settlement, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Georgia convened a further round of negotiations in Geneva from 7 to 9 February 1995. The negotiations were also attended by representatives of the Russian Federation as facilitator, the OSCE and UNHCR. The negotiations revolved mainly around political matters and refugee issues.

Despite all efforts by the Special Envoy, UNHCR, the Russian Federation and the OSCE, the Abkhaz

authorities continued to oppose a timetable for the speedier return of refugees and displaced persons. They maintained their position that progress on the question of refugees must be linked to progress on political issues.

Negotiations on the question of the political status of Abkhazia were conducted on the basis of a political paper that had been circulated to both sides at the previous round of negotiations. In the course of talks, both sides reached, for the first time, an understanding on certain provisions of a future agreement concerning a State within the boundaries of the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic as at 21 December 1991, including the establishment of a "federal legislative organ" and a "supreme organ of executive power", acting within the bounds of agreed competences.

During follow-up expert group meetings, convened by the Special Envoy in February and March in Moscow, some further progress was achieved on formulations for basic provisions of an agreement on a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict. However, core areas of disagreement remained, including recognition of the territorial integrity of Georgia, characterization of the union State as federal in nature, the issue of a joint army and popular legitimization of an agreement.

In a report submitted to the Security Council on 6 March 1995, the Secretary-General stated that there had been "some movement, albeit not extensive". For the first time there was a productive dialogue between the two sides; negotiations and expert discussions were constructive and businesslike and a certain substantive momentum was tentatively established.

On the other hand, the Secretary-General stated, the continued stalemate on the question of the orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia was creating pressures which could result in explosive developments leading to the resumption of a war between the two sides. Every effort should therefore be made to obtain Abkhaz agreement to a timetable ensuring the early return of a substantial number of persons to their homes by mid-1995, in particular in the Gali region.

With regard to the situation on the ground, the Secretary-General described it as tense, except in the Kodori valley where it had been calm. In spite of the positive effect of the CIS peace-keeping force's presence and UNOMIG's extensive patrolling of certain areas, the crime rate throughout the Mission's area of operation, especially in Abkhazia, remained high. Incidents of violations of human rights, largely against the Georgian population, had been reported. UNOMIG believed that armed elements, beyond the control of either the Government of Georgia or the Abkhaz authorities, had been responsible for those acts. Further, attempts to reintroduce heavy military equipment and armament into the security and restricted weapons zones had been made by both sides. UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force had protested all such attempts.

The Secretary-General believed that the presence of UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force in the region had contributed greatly to preventing a resumption of hostilities and paved the way for continued political negotiations.

On 17 March 1995, the Security Council, in a presidential statement, reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. It took note of the movement in the political talks and called upon the parties to exert determined efforts towards achieving substantive progress during the next round of talks.

The Council was deeply concerned about the lack of progress regarding the return of refugees and displaced persons and deplored the continued obstruction on that issue displayed by the Abkhaz authorities. The Council noted the lack of contributions to the voluntary fund established in support of the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces and reiterated its encouragement to Member States to make contributions to that and/or for humanitarian aspects including demining.

COMPOSITION OF UNOMIG

The current authorized strength of UNOMIG is 136 military observers. The Mission is under the command of the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard (Denmark). As of 31 March 1995, the military observers were being provided by the following countries:

COUNTRY	OBSERVERS
Albania	1
Austria	4
Bangladesh	11
Cuba	4
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	6
Egypt	5
France	5
Germany	10
Greece	5
Hungary	7
Indonesia	6
Jordan	9
Pakistan	8
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	6
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	7
Switzerland	5
Turkey	5
United Kingdom	10
United States	4
Uruguay	4
TOTAL	135

Figures may vary from month to month due to rotation.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The costs of UNOMIG are met by assessed contributions from United Nations Member States. The rough cost to the United Nations of the Mission in 1994 was approximately $10.8 million. By its resolution 49/231 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for UNOMIG at a rate not to exceed $1,720,034 gross ($1,617,034 net) per month for the period from 14 January to 13 July 1995. As at 28 February 1995, total contributions outstanding to the UNOMIG Special Account for the period from the inception of the operation to 15 May 1995 amounted to approximately $4.8 million.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The fighting in Abkhazia resulted in a massive displacement of civilians. According to inter-agency estimates, some 400,000 persons fled from Abkhazia and either became displaced persons in other regions of Georgia or sought refuge in other countries. The Georgian authorities issued an urgent appeal to Governments for humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Representative in Tbilisi convened a meeting of representatives of the United Nations system, diplomatic community and non-governmental organizations to review the situation and arrange assistance. On 1 October 1993, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs made an emergency appeal, calling particular attention to the need for food, warm clothing, medical supplies and logistic support for the transport of relief supplies. A United Nations relief flight was then organized. The head of the United Nations interim office and a second United Nations official maintained a United Nations presence in Tbilisi to monitor the delivery of humanitarian relief.

A full scale inter-agency needs assessment mission organized by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs visited Georgia in February–March 1994. Representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Volunteers and International Organization for Migration participated. The number of displaced persons was estimated at 250,000. In Abkhazia there was extensive destruction of homes and infrastructure and it was estimated that 75 per cent of the inhabitants had departed. Following the assessment, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs launched an Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in a total amount of $100 million for all three countries. The principal sectors of assistance were food aid, logistics, health and shelter.

As a result of the signing on 4 April 1994 by Georgian, Abkhazian, Russian and UNHCR representatives of a "Quadripartite agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons", and after further inter-agency consultation, an addendum to the appeal for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia was issued. In the addendum, $31 million was requested for food, logistics, shelter and domestic needs in order to promote voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to the Abkhaz region of Georgia.

The voluntary repatriation to Abkhazia of refugees and internally displaced persons started in mid-October 1994. Out of an estimated total of 250,000 refugees and displaced persons, however, only some 300 persons had returned under the procedures established by the Quadripartite Commission. UNHCR proposed that a timetable be set for the repatriation. Meanwhile, reports by both UNHCR and UNOMIG indicated that a significant number of persons, estimated at several thousands, had repatriated spontaneously.

During the Geneva talks held in November 1994, a statement on the question of refugees and displaced persons was issued jointly by the United Nations, the then CSCE and the Russian Federation requesting the parties to take a number of specific steps to speed up the pace of repatriation.

Since the end of November 1994, however, formal repatriation has virtually halted. The issue of the timetable was again addressed at the meeting of the Quadripartite Commission in February 1995, but no progress was achieved.

The security situation in the Gali region remained extremely precarious and several serious security threats were reported. Those were attributed to actions carried out by uncontrolled groups and formations. Inevitably, humanitarian programmes were affected by the unstable security situation. In addition, there continued to be a danger of mines.

The stalemate in repatriation also represented a major constraint in addressing the needs of spontaneous returnees and other affected members of the population, and imposed a heavy additional burden on the rest of Georgia. In addition, in the absence of a clear commitment by the parties to the quadripartite process, the financing of humanitarian programmes had become difficult.

The Secretary-General has repeatedly drawn the attention of Members States to the critical humanitarian situation in Georgia. In his most recent report submitted to the Security Council on 6 March 1995, he cited UNHCR reports that despite the presence of the CIS peace-keeping force and UNOMIG, conditions in the security zone had deteriorated to the point where it had become increasingly difficult to deliver relief supplies to target groups without their being looted and without placing the intended beneficiaries at risk. Furthermore, UNHCR's implementing partners were reluctant to operate in those areas.

The insufficient funding for UNHCR's programmes in Georgia continued to be critical and had even compelled UNHCR to reduce its presence in the country. The inter-agency consolidated appeal aimed at bringing emergency relief to people displaced by the fighting in Abkhazia, covering the period through March 1995, had a 52 per cent shortfall in contributions.

The Secretary-General stated that, despite all constraints and adverse conditions, UNHCR remained committed to the quadripartite process of voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons. UNHCR had continued to maintain a presence in Georgia, including Abkhazia, where it had monitored the security situation in the Gali region so as to determine when conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees were present and to monitor the situation of the 311 returnees. UNHCR had also been monitoring the security situation of the refugees and internally displaced persons in the Zugdidi region.

In mid-January 1995, an inter-agency assessment mission to the Caucasus visited the region and evaluated the needs of Georgia and the other countries in the region for 1995, for the purposes of preparing the next inter-agency consolidated appeal for the Caucasus (April 1995–March 1996). The appeal for $118 million to fund humanitarian programmes in Armenia,

Azerbaijan and Georgia was launched on 23 March, covering the most urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable segments of the population in the three countries.

NOTE

1/ While the parties had agreed to consider a draft political paper outlining possible political and legal components of the future status of Abkhazia within a union State as a basis for further discussion, the Georgian side withdrew its acceptance on 12 December 1994.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND STATEMENTS BY ITS PRESIDENT RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

10 September 1992 — 17 March 1995

SECURITY COUNCIL

Under the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. All United Nations Member States have agreed to accept and carry out the Council's decisions in accordance with the Charter.

The Council is composed of 15 members. Five are permanent: China, France, the Russian Federation,* the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly to serve two-year terms. Since 1992, non-permanent members of the Security Council were as follows:

1992 — Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Japan, Morocco, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

1993 — Brazil, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Hungary, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, Spain and Venezuela.

1994 — Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Djibouti, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda and Spain.

1995 — Argentina, Botswana, the Czech Republic, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Nigeria, Oman and Rwanda.

Each member of the Security Council has one vote. Decisions on substantive matters require nine affirmative votes including the concurring votes of all five permanent members. The permanent members may abstain or not participate at all in the voting, and still satisfy the stipulation of their concurrence in the affirmative vote. A negative vote by any permanent member means the rejection of the draft resolution or proposal.

RESOLUTIONS AND STATEMENTS

Between 10 September 1992 and 17 March 1995, the Council adopted 12 resolutions directly relating to the situation in Georgia. In addition, the President of the Security Council issued nine statements in this connection. The full text of those resolutions and statements is reproduced on the following pages.

* The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was an original Member of the United Nations from 24 October 1945. In a letter dated 24 December 1991, the President of the Russian Federation informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations, including the Security Council and all the organs and organizations of the United Nations system, was being continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

(TO THE PRESS)

10 September 1992 (S/24542)

After the consultations held on 10 September 1992, the President of the Security Council made the following statement to the media on behalf of the Council:

The members of the Security Council having heard the information provided by the Secretary-General and having considered the Final document of the Moscow meeting between the President of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Georgia on 3 September 1992, express their satisfaction with the efforts of the participants of the meeting aimed at achieving an immediate cease-fire, overcoming the crisis situation and creating conditions for a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia which had become an area of armed conflict.

The members of the Council, stressing the urgent necessity for a political settlement of the conflict by peaceful means, through negotiations, reaffirm the inadmissibility of any encroachment upon the principle of territorial integrity and upon Georgia's internationally recognized borders, and the necessity of respecting the rights of all people of all ethnic groups in the region. They welcome the resumption of the normal functioning of the legitimate authorities in Abkhazia.

In this connection the members of the Council welcome the principles of the settlement contained in the above-mentioned Final document and commend concrete measures aimed at the settlement in Abkhazia envisaged in it. They call upon all the parties in the conflict and all others concerned to observe strictly the agreements achieved in Moscow.

The members of the Council take note of the intention of the Secretary-General to send a goodwill mission and request him to inform the Council periodically of the developments in Abkhazia.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

8 October 1992 (S/24637)

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3121st meeting, held on 8 October 1992, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia":

The Security Council has noted with concern the report of the Secretary-General regarding the situation in Georgia dated 7 October 1992 (S/24633). It thanks the Secretary-General for the useful information contained in that document. It expresses its grave preoccupation regarding the recent deterioration of the situation in Georgia. It calls on all the parties to cease the fighting forthwith and to observe the terms of the agreement concluded on 3 September 1992 in Moscow which affirms that the territorial integrity of Georgia shall be ensured, which provides for the establishment of a cease-fire, the commitment by the parties not to resort to the use of force, and which constitutes the basis for an overall political solution.

The Council supports the decision of the Secretary-General to send, in response to the request of the Government of Georgia, another mission to Georgia, headed by an Under-Secretary-General, which will be accompanied by members of the Secretariat, some of whom will remain on the spot. It endorses the mandate proposed by the Secretary-General in his letter of 7 October. It looks forward to the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General upon the return of his mission from Georgia and is prepared to consider the recommendations which the Secretary-General plans to submit to it concerning the contribution which the United Nations could make to the implementation of the agreement of 3 September.

The Council notes that the current Chairman of the CSCE intends to dispatch a mission to Georgia in the near future and underlines the need to ensure coordination between the efforts of the United Nations and those of the CSCE aimed at restoring peace.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

29 January 1993 (S/25198)

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3169th meeting, held on 29 January 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia":

The Security Council notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/25188).

The Council expresses its grave preoccupation regarding the further deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and calls on all the parties immediately to cease the fighting and to observe and implement faithfully the terms of the agreement of 3 September 1992, which affirms that the territorial integrity of Georgia shall be ensured, which provides for a cease-fire and the commitment by the parties not to resort to the use of force, and which constitutes the basis for an overall political solution.

The Council shares the observation of the Secretary-General that the restoration of a viable peace process in Abkhazia, based on the agreement of 3 September 1992, may require more active support by the international community to assist the parties to agree to a cease-fire, to the return of refugees and to work out a political settlement; and in that context the Council reiterates its support for the current efforts undertaken by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The Council endorses, to this end, the proposal of the Secretary-General to send a new mission to Georgia to review the situation in Abkhazia and it stresses the need to ensure effective coordination between the activities of the United Nations and those of the CSCE aiming at restoring peace. The Council believes that it is necessary to assess the overall political situation and to discuss and provide advice on practical matters such as the establishment and monitoring of an immediate cease-fire, the monitoring of the border in Abkhazia between Georgia and the Russian Federation, and the protection of the railway and communication links in Abkhazia.

The Council also endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to send a fact-finding mission to Abkhazia to look into the allegations of violations of international humanitarian law by both sides.

The Council requests the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the mission and to propose measures to consolidate the cease-fire and for an overall political settlement.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

2 July 1993 (S/26032)

Following consultations with the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council made the following statement, on behalf of the Council, at its 3249th meeting, on 2 July 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia":

The Security Council has considered the letter dated 2 July 1993 from the Head of State of the Republic of Georgia concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/26031). The Council expresses its deep concern at the reports of increased fighting around Sukhumi. The Council calls on all the parties to cease military action immediately, and to respect the cease-fire agreement of 14 May 1993. The Council will consider without delay the report of the Secretary-General of 1 July 1993 (S/26023), and the recommendations therein.

RESOLUTION 849 (1993)

9 July 1993

Adopted, as orally revised in its provisional form, by unanimous vote.

Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 1 July 1993 (S/26023 and Add.2),

Recalling the statements made by the President of the Security Council on 10 September 1992, 8 October

1992 and 29 January 1993 concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/24542, S/24637 and S/25198),

Recalling the Moscow Agreement of 3 September 1992 (S/24523),

Endorsing the approach set out in the Secretary-General's letter of 5 May 1993 to the President of the Security Council (S/25756),

Noting with concern the recent intensification of fighting around Sukhumi,

Reaffirming the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 2 July 1993 (S/26032), which called in particular on all parties to respect the cease-fire agreement of 14 May 1993,

Stressing the importance it attaches, in the context of the deployment of military observers, to the existence and implementation of a cease-fire and a peace process with the effective involvement of the United Nations,

1. Notes with appreciation the observations contained in the Secretary-General's report;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to the region to assist in reaching agreement on the implementation of the cease-fire; and to begin immediately the necessary preparations, including contacting Member States which may be able to make observers available and sending a planning team to the area, for the dispatch of 50 military observers to Georgia once the cease-fire is implemented;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to notify the Council, for its decision, when the cease-fire has been implemented and in his view conditions permit the deployment of the observers, and to make recommendations at that stage for their mandate, and ***declares*** its readiness to act expeditiously upon such notification;

4. Welcomes in this context the Secretary-General's continuing efforts to launch a peace process involving the parties to the conflict and with the participation of the Government of the Russian Federation as a facilitator;

5. Supports the Secretary-General's continuing cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in their efforts to bring peace to the region;

6. Calls on the Government of the Republic of Georgia to enter expeditiously into discussion with the United Nations on a status of forces agreement to facilitate early deployment of observers when the Council so decides;

7. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 854 (1993)

6 August 1993

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, which reserved to the Council a decision on the deployment of military observers, following implementation of a cease-fire,

Welcoming the signing on 27 July 1993 of the agreement establishing the cease-fire in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia,

1. Approves the Secretary-General's proposal as contained in his letter of 4 August 1993 to the President of the Security Council (S/26254) that an advance team of up to ten United Nations military observers be deployed to the region as soon as possible to begin to help to verify compliance with the cease-fire as envisaged in the cease-fire agreement, the mandate of the team to expire within three months, and contemplates that this advance team will be incorporated into a United Nations observer mission if such a mission is formally established by the Council;

2. Looks forward to the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed establishment of a United Nations observer mission, including in particular a detailed estimate of the cost and the scope of this operation, a

time-frame for its implementation, and the projected conclusion of this operation;

3. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 858 (1993)

24 August 1993

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, which reserved to the Council a decision on the deployment of observers, following implementation of a cease-fire,

Welcoming the signing of the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July 1993 between the Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia,

Recalling its resolution 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, in which the Council approved the deployment of an advance team of observers for a period of three months,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report,

Reaffirming previous statements which underscored the vital importance of the maintenance of cease-fire agreements, in particular the statement of the President of the Security Council on 2 July 1993 (S/26032),

Determining that continuation of the conflict in Georgia threatens peace and stability in the region,

Noting that the parties to the conflict have committed themselves to withdrawal of forces from Abkhazia and that this withdrawal is at present under way,

1. Welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 6 August 1993 (S/26250);

2. Decides to establish a United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in accordance with the above-mentioned report comprising up to eighty-eight military observers, plus minimal staff necessary to support UNOMIG, with the following mandate:

(a) To verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July 1993 with special attention to the situation in the City of Sukhumi;

(b) To investigate reports of cease-fire violations and to attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved;

(c) To report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of its mandate including, in particular, violations of the Cease-fire Agreement;

3. Decides that UNOMIG is established for a period of six months subject to the proviso that it will be extended beyond the initial ninety days only upon a review by the Council based on a report from the Secretary-General whether or not substantive progress had been made towards implementing measures aimed at establishing a lasting peace;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report as appropriate, but in any event within three months, on the activities of UNOMIG;

5. Decides to keep under constant review the operational arrangements to implement the mandate contained in this resolution, in the light of any further recommendations that the Secretary-General may make in this regard;

6. Welcomes the proposed deployment of mixed interim monitoring groups of Georgian/Abkhaz/Russian units designed to consolidate the cease-fire, and ***requests*** the Secretary-General to facilitate cooperation between the United Nations observers and these units within their respective mandates;

7. Calls on all parties to respect and implement the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July 1993 and to cooperate fully with UNOMIG and ensure the safety of all United Nations personnel and all other peace-keeping and humanitarian personnel within Georgia;

8. Calls on the Government of the Republic of Georgia to conclude expeditiously with the United Nations a status of forces agreement to facilitate deployment of UNOMIG;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to pursue energetically, through his Special Envoy, efforts to facilitate the peace process and negotiations, starting as soon as possible, towards the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement;

10. Expresses its continuing support for the Secretary-General's ongoing cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in efforts to bring peace to Georgia and elsewhere in the region;

11. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

17 September 1993 (S/26463)

At the 3279th meeting of the Security Council, held on 17 September 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council expresses its extreme concern at the outbreak of fighting in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, arising from the attacks by the Abkhaz forces on the towns of Sukhumi and Ochamchira.

The Council strongly condemns this grave violation by the Abkhaz side of the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993, which was mediated by the Russian Federation and welcomed by the Security Council in resolutions 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993 and 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993.

The Council strongly demands that the Abkhaz leadership end immediately the hostilities and promptly withdraw all its forces to the cease-fire lines agreed upon in Sochi on 27 July 1993. Failure to take such action can entail the risk of serious consequences.

The Council urges all countries to encourage the re-establishment of the cease-fire and the resumption of the peace process.

The Council expresses its strong desire to see the Abkhaz side enter fully into the peace process without further delay.

The Council notes the oral report of the Secretary-General on 17 September 1993 regarding the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and welcomes his intention to send his Special Envoy for Georgia to Moscow and to the area to assess the situation and to establish a way forward to a peaceful settlement to the dispute.

The Council looks forward to receiving the Secretary-General's report at an early date.

RESOLUTION 876 (1993)

19 October 1993

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993 and 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Council on 17 September 1993 (S/26463), in which the Security Council expressed its extreme concern for the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and urged all countries to encourage the resumption of the peace process,

Having considered the letter from the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia, dated 12 October 1993 (S/26576, annex),

Having also considered the Secretary-General's report of 7 October 1993 (S/26551),

Deeply concerned at the human suffering caused by conflict in the region, and at reports of "ethnic cleansing" and other serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Determining that continuation of the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, threatens peace and stability in the region,

1. Affirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia;

2. Reaffirms its strong condemnation of the grave violation by the Abkhaz side of the Cease-fire Agreement of 27 July 1993 between the Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia, and subsequent actions in violation of international humanitarian law;

3. Condemns also the killing of the Chairman of the Defence Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia;

4. Demands that all parties refrain from the use of force and from any violations of international humanitarian law, and ***welcomes*** the decision of the Secretary-General to send a fact-finding mission to the Republic of Georgia in this regard, in particular to investigate reports of "ethnic cleansing";

5. Affirms the right of refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes, and ***calls on*** the parties to facilitate this;

6. Welcomes the humanitarian assistance already provided, including by international aid agencies, and ***urges*** Member States to contribute towards the relief efforts;

7. Calls for unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief assistance in the region;

8. Calls on all States to prevent the provision from their territories or by persons under their jurisdiction of all assistance, other than humanitarian assistance, to the Abkhaz side and in particular to prevent the supply of any weapons and munitions;

9. Reiterates its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, to carry forward the peace process with the aim of achieving an overall political settlement;

10. Notes the provisional steps the Secretary-General has taken with regard to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), and ***welcomes*** his intention to provide a further report both on the future of UNOMIG and on the political aspects of the United Nations role in trying to end the conflict in Abkhazia;

11. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 881 (1993)

4 November 1993

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993 and 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993,

Recalling in particular resolution 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, in which the Council decided to establish a United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG),

Having considered the Secretary-General's report of 27 October 1993 (S/26646) concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia,

Noting with concern that the original mandate of UNOMIG has been overtaken by the military developments of 16 to 27 September 1993,

Expressing its serious concern that continuation of the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, threatens peace and stability in the region,

1. Welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 27 October 1993;

2. Welcomes also the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance

of the Government of the Russian Federation as facilitator, to carry forward the peace process with the aim of achieving an overall political settlement, and in particular to bring both parties together in late November 1993 in Geneva;

3. Reiterates the demand in its resolution 876 (1993) that all the parties to the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, refrain from the use of force and from any violation of international humanitarian law, and looks forward to the report of the fact-finding mission sent by the Secretary-General to the Republic of Georgia in this regard;

4. Approves the continued presence of UNOMIG in Georgia until 31 January 1994 comprising up to five military observers plus minimal support staff, with the following interim mandate:

(a) to maintain contacts with both sides to the conflict and military contingents of the Russian Federation;

(b) to monitor the situation and report to headquarters, with particular reference to any developments relevant to the efforts of the United Nations to promote a comprehensive political settlement;

5. Decides that UNOMIG will not be extended beyond 31 January 1994 unless the Secretary-General reports to the Council that substantive progress has been made towards implementing measures aimed at establishing a lasting peace or that the peace process will be served by the prolongation of its mandate, and ***requests*** the Secretary-General to report as appropriate, but in any event by late January 1994, on the activities of UNOMIG;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take planning steps which would enable, upon a further decision by the Council, prompt deployment of additional personnel within the originally authorized strength of UNOMIG if the Secretary-General reports that the situation on the ground and in the peace process warrants it;

7. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

8 November 1993 (S/26706)

At the 3307th meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 November 1993, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council is following with deep concern developments in the Republic of Georgia, where the continuing disorder has led to mass suffering of the civilian population and threatens to worsen seriously the humanitarian situation in neighbouring Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In this connection, the Security Council notes the appeal by the Government of the Republic of Georgia to the Russian Federation, the Azerbaijani Republic and the Republic of Armenia for assistance to protect and ensure the uninterrupted operation of railroads in the Republic of Georgia. These are crucial communication links for the three Transcaucasian countries. The Council welcomes the improvement in security for the lines of communication that has followed the Russian Federation's response, which was made in accordance with the wishes of the Government of the Republic of Georgia.

The Security Council appeals to the international community to continue its efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the population of the Republic of Georgia.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter, and asks to be kept informed of developments by the parties concerned on a regular basis.

RESOLUTION 892 (1993)

22 December 1993

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993 and 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993,

Also reaffirming its resolution 868 (1993) of 29 September 1993 concerning the security of United Nations operations,

Having considered the Secretary-General's letter of 16 December 1993 concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/26901),

Noting the letter of 9 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgian and Abkhazian sides signed in Geneva on 1 December 1993 (S/26875),

Welcoming the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (S/26875),

Taking note that the parties to the Memorandum of Understanding consider that the maintenance of peace would be promoted by an increased international presence in the zone of conflict,

Taking note also of the first expert level talks held between the parties in Moscow on 15 and 16 December 1993 and of the intention to convene a new round of negotiations in Geneva on 11 January 1994 with a view to achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict,

Noting that encouraging progress has been achieved in the negotiations between the parties, which justifies the deployment of additional United Nations military observers,

Noting also the decisions of the ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) held in Rome on 30 November and 1 December 1993 (S/26843), and ***welcoming further*** the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE in this matter,

Deeply concerned at the humanitarian situation in Georgia, in particular at the number of displaced persons and refugees,

1. Welcomes the Secretary-General's letter of 16 December 1993 (S/26901);

2. Authorizes the phased deployment of up to 50 additional United Nations military observers to UNOMIG as recommended by the Secretary-General in his letter (S/26901) to perform the functions described in paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 881 (1993) and in this manner to contribute to the implementation by the parties of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding of 1 December 1993; and ***requests*** the Secretary-General to inform the Council on the duties of new observers as additional deployments beyond the initial 10 referred to in the Secretary-General's letter (S/26901) are undertaken;

3. Notes the intention of the Secretary-General to plan and prepare for a possible further expansion of UNOMIG to ensure prompt deployment should the situation on the ground and the course of negotiations warrant it;

4. Expresses its willingness to review the existing mandate of UNOMIG taking into account any progress achieved towards the promotion of a comprehensive political settlement and in the light of the report of the Secretary-General due late January 1994; this report should cover, *inter alia*, the specific activities UNOMIG will undertake, prospects for the mission, and anticipated costs, in light of the situation on the ground and in the negotiations;

5. Urges the parties to comply fully with all the commitments they have undertaken in the Memorandum of Understanding, and in particular with the commitments undertaken in accordance with the main provisions of the cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993, set out in paragraph 1 of the Memorandum of Understanding;

6. Urges also the parties to take all steps necessary to ensure the security of UNOMIG personnel and welcomes the readiness of the Government of the Rus-

sian Federation to assist the Secretary-General in this regard;

7. Urges also the parties fully to comply with their undertakings in the Memorandum of Understanding to create conditions for the voluntary, safe and speedy return of refugees to the places of their permanent residence and to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to all victims of the conflict;

8. Urges also the parties not to take any political or any other steps that could aggravate the existing situation or hinder the process towards a comprehensive political settlement;

9. Encourages donor States to make contributions in response to the United Nations humanitarian appeal;

10. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 896 (1994)

31 January 1994

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993 and 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993,

Also reaffirming its resolution 868 (1993) of 29 September 1993 concerning the security of United Nations operations,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 25 January 1994 concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/1994/80 and Add.1),

Welcoming the Communiqué on the second round of negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides signed in Geneva on 13 January 1994 (S/1994/32),

recalling the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Geneva on 1 December 1993 (S/26875), and ***emphasizing*** the importance of implementation by the parties of the obligations to which they have committed themselves,

Taking note that the parties, in the Communiqué, state that they continue to favour the deployment in the zone of conflict of United Nations peace-keeping forces or other forces, subject to authorization by the United Nations,

Taking note also of the next expert level talks to be held between the parties in Moscow on 8 February 1994 and of the intention of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to convene a new round of negotiations in Geneva on 22 February 1994,

Recognizing the grave situation in the Republic of Georgia created by the presence of almost 300,000 persons displaced from Abkhazia,

Noting again the conclusions of the ministerial meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) held in Rome on 30 November and 1 December 1993 (S/26843), and ***welcoming*** the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the CSCE in this matter,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General of 25 January 1994;

2. Welcomes the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation as facilitator, to carry forward the peace process with the aim of achieving an overall political settlement, and ***welcomes in particular*** the progress achieved so far;

3. Urges the parties to resume the negotiations as soon as possible and to demonstrate stronger willingness to achieve progress towards a comprehensive political settlement;

4. Calls upon all concerned to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and ***stresses*** the importance it attaches to such respect;

5. *Stresses* that substantive progress must be made immediately on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, if the negotiations are to succeed and further conflict is to be avoided;

6. *Approves* the continuation of UNOMIG's mandate until 7 March 1994 within the numbers authorized in resolution 892 (1993);

7. *Declares* its readiness, within this period, to consider promptly any recommendation from the Secretary-General to further increase the strength of UNOMIG up to the limit specified in resolution 858 (1993) should the Secretary-General so recommend;

8. *Takes note* of the options described by the Secretary-General in his report (S/1994/80) for possible establishment of a peace-keeping operation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council immediately following the third round of negotiations between the parties on progress, if any, made in the negotiations and on the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force;

10. *Underlines* the importance of substantive progress towards a political settlement at the next round of negotiations for further consideration by the Council of possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

11. *Recognizes* the right of all refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict to return, without preconditions, to their homes in secure conditions, ***calls upon*** the parties to honour the commitments they have already made in this regard, and ***urges*** the parties to come to an expeditious agreement, including a binding timetable, that would assure the rapid return of these refugees and displaced persons in secure conditions;

12. *Condemns* any attempts to change the demographic composition of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, including by repopulating it with persons not previously resident there;

13. *Calls upon* the parties to comply fully with the cease-fire to which they have committed themselves;

14. *Urges* the parties to take all steps necessary to ensure the security of UNOMIG personnel and ***welcomes*** the readiness of the Russian Federation to assist them in this regard;

15. *Encourages* donor States to assist the Republic of Georgia to enable it to overcome the consequences of the conflict and to make contributions in response to the United Nations humanitarian appeal;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 901 (1994)

4 March 1994

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993 and 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994,

Noting the letter dated 28 February 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1994/234) transmitting the statement of the Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State of the Republic of Georgia,

Noting also the resumption in New York on 7 March 1994 of the negotiations held in Geneva from 22 to 24 February 1994 between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,

Urging the parties to achieve as soon as possible substantive progress towards a political settlement based on the principles set out in its previous resolutions so that

the Security Council may adequately consider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia,

1. Decides to extend UNOMIG's mandate for an additional interim period terminating on 31 March 1994;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council by 21 March 1994 on whatever progress has been made in the negotiations and on the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force;

3. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 906 (1994)

25 March 1994

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994 and 901 (1994) of 4 March 1994,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia (Republic of Georgia) of 3 March 1994 (S/1994/253) and 18 March 1994 (S/1994/312 and Add.1),

Regretting that no agreement on a political settlement and on the return of refugees and displaced persons has so far been reached in the negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,

Welcoming the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Georgia of 24 March 1994 (S/1994/343) informing of the readiness of the Georgian Government to continue the negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement,

Stressing again the grave situation in the Republic of Georgia created by the presence of large numbers of persons displaced from Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia,

Deploring in particular the violence which occurred in early February,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General of 3 and 18 March 1994 (S/1994/253 and S/1994/312);

2. Calls upon once again all concerned to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia;

3. Stresses the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in secure conditions, throughout Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and ***urges*** the parties to come to an expeditious agreement with a view to facilitating the effective realization of this right;

4. Urges also the parties to resume the negotiations as soon as possible and to achieve substantive progress towards a political settlement, including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, based on the principles set out in its previous resolutions, so that the Security Council may adequately consider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

5. Encourages donor States to assist the Republic of Georgia to enable it to overcome the consequences of the conflict, and to make contributions in response to the United Nations humanitarian appeal;

6. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for an additional interim period terminating on 30 June 1994;

7. Urges the parties to take all necessary steps to ensure the security of UNOMIG personnel and its freedom of movement throughout the territory of the Republic of Georgia;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on whatever progress is made in the negotiations as

soon as it is achieved, and in any case no later than 21 June 1994, and on the situation on the ground, with special attention to circumstances which might warrant a peace-keeping force and on the modalities for such a force;

9. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

8 April 1994 (S/PRST/1994/17)

At the 3362nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 8 April 1994, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the conclusion of the third round of the negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides on a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict under the aegis of the United Nations with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and also attended by representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Council considers the signing in Moscow on 4 April 1994 of the "Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict" (S/1994/397, annex I) and the "Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons" (S/1994/397, annex II) as an encouraging event, laying the basis for further progress towards the settlement of the conflict.

The Council calls upon both parties to observe strictly the cease-fire and other commitments under the agreements and to use the atmosphere of constructive cooperation, which has emerged during the negotiations, for the solution of other key issues of the settlement.

In this context, the Council supports a further increase in the deployed strength of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) up to the limit specified in resolution 892 (1993), if the Secretary-General considers that the conditions on the ground make that appropriate.

The Council reaffirms its support for the return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in secure conditions, in accordance with international law, and as set out in the Quadripartite Agreement's provisions, and calls upon the parties to honour the commitments they have already made in this regard.

The Council underlines the importance of substantive progress towards a political settlement during the next rounds of negotiations so that the Security Council may adequately consider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia.

The Council expresses in this connection its hope for fruitful results of the work of the Quadripartite Commission on refugees and displaced persons, which begins its work in Sochi on 8 April 1994, and of the negotiations between the parties aimed at creating the conditions for the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force and the continuation of consultations on the political status of Abkhazia to be convened on 12 and 19 April 1994, respectively.

The Council welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his Special Envoy for Georgia aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, in accordance with the principles set out in its relevant resolutions, and looks forward to an early report by the Secretary-General as provided for in resolution 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994.

RESOLUTION 934 (1994)

30 June 1994

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24

August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 901 (1994) of 4 March 1994 and 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report of 16 June 1994 (S/1994/725),

Recalling the letter of 16 June 1994 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/1994/714),

Noting the letter of 21 June 1994 from the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General (S/1994/732),

Noting that talks between the parties on a comprehensive political settlement will resume shortly and ***urging*** the parties to achieve substantive progress towards a political settlement consistent with the principles set out in its previous resolutions,

1. Welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 16 June 1994;

2. Notes with satisfaction the beginning of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) assistance in the zone of conflict, in response to the request of the parties, on the basis of the 14 May 1994 Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (S/1994/583, Annex I), in continued coordination with the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), and on the basis of further coordinating arrangements with UNOMIG to be agreed by the time of the Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's recommendations on the expansion of UNOMIG;

3. Decides to extend until 21 July 1994 the existing mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) at its current authorized strength, within which period the further expansion of UNOMIG as recommended in the Secretary-General's report of 6 June 1994 (S/1994/529/Add.1) will be addressed;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the letter of 16 June 1994 from the President of the Security Council (S/1994/714), to report to the Council on the outcome of discussions between UNOMIG, the parties and the CIS peace-keeping force designed to reach an agreement on the arrangements which would exist on the ground for coordination between an expanded UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force;

5. Reaffirms its readiness to consider detailed recommendations on the expansion of UNOMIG along the lines of the ideas set out in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report of 6 June 1994;

6. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

RESOLUTION 937 (1994)

21 July 1994

Adopted by a vote of 14 in favour. One member, Rwanda, was absent.

Sponsors: France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994 and 934 (1994) of 30 June 1994,

Recalling the letter of 16 June 1994 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/1994/714),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 12 July 1994 (S/1994/818 and Add.1),

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and the right of all refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict to return to their homes in secure conditions, in accordance with international law and as set out in the Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees

and displaced persons (S/1994/397, annex II), signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994,

Welcoming the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583),

Recognizing the importance of consistent and full compliance with the Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict (S/1994/397, annex I) and the Quadripartite Agreement,

Stressing the crucial importance of progress in the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and with the participation of representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, based on the principles set out in its previous resolutions,

Stressing also that this progress would allow the Council to reconsider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, as proposed in the letter of 7 September 1993 from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia and of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General (S/26478),

Stressing further the need to prevent any resumption of hostilities in the area,

Deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation, and the dangers which could arise within the region if the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons are not able to return to their homes in secure conditions,

Taking note of the address of the Head of State of the Republic of Georgia of 16 May 1994, and that of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia of 15 May 1994, to the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and ***recognizing*** that the deployment of a CIS peace-keeping force to the area is predicated upon the request and consent of the parties to the conflict,

Noting the statements in the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the Secretary-General of 21 June 1994 (S/1994/732, annex) concerning the mandate of the CIS peace-keeping force and its duration,

Noting with satisfaction the readiness of the Russian Federation to continue to inform the members of the Security Council on the activities of the CIS peace-keeping force,

Welcoming the closer cooperation and coordination envisaged between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE, in particular as regards their efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement in the Republic of Georgia,

Underlining the importance of the relevant provisions of the documents of the Helsinki Summit of the CSCE of 1992 (S/24370) and of the ministerial meeting of the CSCE held in Rome on 30 November and 1 December 1993 (S/26843), including those concerning peace-keeping activities in the CSCE area,

Noting the assurances given by the parties and the representatives of the CIS peace-keeping force concerning the full freedom of movement for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in the performance of its mandate, both within the zone of operations of the CIS peace-keeping force and in other relevant parts of the territory of the Republic of Georgia,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 12 July 1994;

2. Calls upon the parties to intensify their efforts to achieve an early and comprehensive political settlement under the auspices of the United Nations with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and with the participation of representatives of the CSCE, and ***welcomes*** the wish of the parties to see the United

Nations continue to be actively involved in the pursuit of a political settlement;

3. Commends the efforts of the members of the CIS directed towards the maintenance of a cease-fire in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and the promotion of the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in accordance with the Agreement signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 in full cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement;

4. Welcomes the contribution made by the Russian Federation, and indications of further contributions from other members of the CIS, of a peace-keeping force, in response to the request of the parties, pursuant to the 14 May Agreement, in coordination with UNOMIG on the basis of the arrangements described in the Secretary-General's report of 12 July 1994, and in accordance with the established principles and practices of the United Nations;

5. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to increase the strength of UNOMIG, as required, up to 136 military observers with appropriate civilian support staff;

6. Decides also that the mandate of an expanded UNOMIG, based upon the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report, shall be as follows:

(a) To monitor and verify the implementation by the parties of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994;

(b) To observe the operation of the CIS peace-keeping force within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement;

(c) To verify, through observation and patrolling, that troops of the parties do not remain in or re-enter the security zone and that heavy military equipment does not remain or is not reintroduced in the security zone or the restricted weapons zone;

(d) To monitor the storage areas for heavy military equipment withdrawn from the security zone and the restricted weapons zone in cooperation with the CIS peace-keeping force as appropriate;

(e) To monitor the withdrawal of troops of the Republic of Georgia from the Kodori valley to places beyond the boundaries of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

(f) To patrol regularly the Kodori valley;

(g) To investigate, at the request of either party or the CIS peace-keeping force or on its own initiative, reported or alleged violations of the Agreement and to attempt to resolve or contribute to the resolution of such incidents;

(h) To report regularly to the Secretary-General within its mandate, in particular on the implementation of the Agreement, any violations and their investigation by UNOMIG, as well as other relevant developments;

(i) To maintain close contacts with both parties to the conflict and to cooperate with the CIS peace-keeping force and, by its presence in the area, to contribute to conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons;

7. Notes the Secretary-General's intention to write to the Chairman of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS on the respective roles and responsibilities of UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force and ***requests*** the Secretary-General to establish an appropriate arrangement to that effect, and ***requests*** the commanders of UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force to conclude and implement the appropriate arrangements on the ground described in the Secretary-General's report of 12 July 1994 (S/1994/818) for coordination and cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force in the implementation of their respective tasks;

8. Calls upon the parties to the conflict to extend full support, necessary protection and freedom of movement to UNOMIG in the performance of its mandate both within the zone of operations of the CIS peace-keeping force and in other relevant parts of the territory of the Republic of Georgia for it to fulfil its mandate, and

requests that a status of mission agreement with the Government of the Republic of Georgia and necessary arrangements with the Abkhaz authorities be concluded without delay;

9. Reaffirms its support for the return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in secure conditions, in accordance with international law and as set out in the Quadripartite Agreement, ***calls upon*** the parties to honour the commitments they have already made in this regard and to accelerate the process as far as possible, and ***requests*** UNHCR to give its full assistance to the implementation of the Quadripartite Agreement on the return of refugees and displaced persons;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for contributions in support of the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 and/or for humanitarian aspects including demining, as specified by the donors, which will in particular facilitate the implementation of UNOMIG's mandate, and ***encourages*** Member States to contribute thereto;

11. Decides on this basis to extend the mandate of UNOMIG to 13 January 1995;

12. Requests also the Secretary-General to report within three months of the adoption of this resolution on the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and on the implementation of all aspects of the above-mentioned agreements;

13. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

2 December 1994 (S/PRST/1994/78)

At the 3476th meeting of the Security Council, held on 2 December 1994, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council has received with deep concern a report from the Secretariat concerning a statement of 26 November 1994 attributed to the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia. It believes that any unilateral act purporting to establish a sovereign Abkhaz entity would violate the commitments assumed by the Abkhaz side to seek a comprehensive political settlement of the Georgian-Abkaz conflict. The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

The Security Council calls upon all parties, in particular the Abkhaz side, to reach substantive progress in the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and with the participation of representatives of the CSCE aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, based on the principles set out in all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

The Security Council reaffirms the right of all refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict to return to their homes in secure conditions in accordance with international law and as set out in the Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994. In this regard it expresses great concern at the continued obstruction of the return of refugees and displaced persons and calls upon the Abkhaz party to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with UNHCR, to ensure a speedy and organized voluntary return of the refugees and displaced persons.

RESOLUTION 971 (1995)

12 January 1995

Adopted by unanimous vote.
Prepared in the course of the Council's consultations.

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881

(1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994, 934 (1994) of 30 June 1994 and 937 (1994) of 21 July 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 6 January 1995 (S/1995/10 and Add.1 and 2),

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, and in this context ***recalling*** the statement by the President of the Security Council of 2 December 1994 (S/PRST/1994/78),

Reaffirming also the right of all refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict to return to their homes in secure conditions in accordance with international law and as set out in the Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons (S/1994/397, annex II), signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994,

Urging the parties to refrain from any unilateral actions which could complicate or hinder the political process aimed at an early and comprehensive settlement of the conflict,

Deeply concerned about the lack of progress regarding a comprehensive political settlement as well as the slow pace of return of refugees and displaced persons,

Calling upon the parties to intensify efforts, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and with the participation of representatives of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to achieve an early and comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia, fully respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia,

Expressing its satisfaction with the close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping force in the performance of their respective mandates,

Commending the contribution of the CIS peace-keeping force and of UNOMIG to the maintenance of a cease-fire and to the stabilization of the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 6 January 1995;

2. Decides to extend the mandate of UNOMIG, as set out in its resolution 937 (1994), for an additional period terminating on 15 May 1995;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report within two months of the adoption of this resolution on all aspects of the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and ***calls upon*** the parties to reach substantive progress in the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations and with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and with participation of representatives of the OSCE;

5. Calls upon the parties to comply with their commitments with regard to the return of refugees and displaced persons, as undertaken in the Quadripartite Agreement and in particular ***calls upon*** the Abkhaz side to accelerate the process significantly;

6. Decides to undertake, on the basis of a report from the Secretary-General submitted by 4 May 1995 and in the light of any progress achieved towards a political settlement and the return of refugees and displaced persons, a thorough review of the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia;

7. Requests also the Secretary-General to examine, within UNOMIG's existing mandate, in cooperation with the relevant Representatives of the CIS peace-keeping force the possibility of additional steps to contribute to conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons;

8. Reiterates its encouragement to Member States to contribute to the voluntary fund in support of the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-Fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583, annex I) and/or for humanitarian aspects including demining, as specified by the donors;

9. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

17 March 1995 (S/PRST/1995/12)

At the 3509th meeting of the Security Council, held on 17 March 1995, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Georgia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council welcomes the interim report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (S/1995/181). The Council also welcomes the recent efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy which enjoy the Council's full support.

The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and calls upon the parties to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia.

The Security Council notes that there has been little overall progress in achieving a comprehensive political settlement and that a stalemate exists with respect to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Security Council takes note of the movement which has occurred in the political talks which resumed in Geneva from 7 to 9 February 1995 and calls upon the parties to exert determined efforts towards achieving substantive progress during the next round of talks.

The Security Council notes with concern that despite the efforts of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the CIS peace-keeping force, the security situation, in the Gali region in particular, has deteriorated, causing great difficulty in the delivery of humanitarian supplies. The Council also notes with concern that reports of human rights abuses, largely against the Georgian population, have become more frequent. The Council calls upon the parties to provide a secure environment, *inter alia*, to provide security for returning refugees and displaced persons and to ensure that international relief supplies can be delivered safely.

The Security Council is deeply concerned about the lack of progress regarding the return of refugees and displaced persons. The Council deplores the continued obstruction on this issue displayed by the Abkhaz authorities and, in particular, the position taken by those authorities in the recent meeting of the Quadripartite Commission in Moscow. The Council expects the parties to implement fully their obligations under the Quadripartite Agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons (S/1994/397, annex II). The Council urges the Abkhaz authorities to agree to a timetable on the basis of that proposed by UNHCR. The Council notes that cooperation between UNOMIG and UNHCR is critical to the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Security Council, while welcoming the pledge that has been announced to the voluntary fund in support of the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces, notes the lack of contributions to this fund and reiterates its encouragement to Member States to make contributions to the voluntary fund in support of the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces and/or for humanitarian aspects including demining, as specified by the donors. The Council also welcomes all other relevant humanitarian contributions of Member States.

The Security Council welcomes the steps taken by UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force aimed at improving conditions for the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons. The Council notes UNOMIG's increased patrolling and looks forward to further information on intensification of its activities within its mandate. The Council also welcomes the strengthen-

ing of cooperation between UNOMIG and the OSCE representatives in Georgia.

The Security Council agrees with the observation of the Secretary-General that, with patience and perseverance, solutions can be found to the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia. The Council underlines that without progress in this direction it will not be possible to maintain the support of the international community.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 5 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

(S/1994/397)

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict and the text of the quadripartite agreement on voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Annex I

DECLARATION ON MEASURES FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE GEORGIAN/ABKHAZ CONFLICT SIGNED ON 4 APRIL 1994

1. The third round of negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict took place from 22 to 25 February 1994 in Geneva, from 7 to 9 March 1994 in New York and from 29 to 31 March in Moscow under the aegis of the United Nations with the facilitation of the Russian Federation and with the participation of representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

2. The negotiations were held in accordance with Security Council resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 901 (1994) of 4 March 1994 and 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994.

3. By signing this declaration, the parties hereby commit themselves to a strict formal cease-fire from this date and also reaffirm their commitment to the non-use of force or threat of the use of force against each other as expressed in their communiqué of 13 January 1994 (see S/1994/32, annex).

4. The parties have agreed to and signed a quadripartite agreement, a copy of which is attached to the present declaration, on the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons. The agreement provides for the return of refugees/displaced persons in accordance with existing international practice, including the practice of UNHCR. A special commission on refugees/displaced persons, which shall include representatives of the parties, UNHCR, the Russian Federation, and CSCE in an observer capacity, shall begin its work in Sochi in mid-April 1994. The implementation of the agreement will begin upon the deployment of a peace-keeping force.

5. The parties reaffirm their request for the early deployment of a peace-keeping operation and for the participation of a Russian military contingent in the United Nations peace-keeping force, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding of 1 December 1993 (S/26875, annex) and the communiqué of 13 January 1994. The plan for carrying out the peace-keeping operation will be agreed upon with the parties to the conflict. The realization of the peace-keeping operation should also promote the safe return of refugees/displaced persons. The parties again appeal to the United Nations Security Council to expand the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

6. Abkhazia shall have its own Constitution and legislation and appropriate State symbols, such as anthem, emblem and flag.

7. The parties held discussions on distribution of powers on the understanding that any agreement on this issue is part of a comprehensive settlement and will be reached only once a final solution to the conflict has been found. At this stage, the parties have reached a mutual understanding regarding powers for joint action in the following fields:

(a) Foreign policy and foreign economic ties;

(b) Border guard arrangements;

(c) Customs;

(d) Energy, transport and communications;

(e) Ecology and elimination of consequences of natural disasters;

(f) Ensuring human and civic rights and freedoms and the rights of national minorities.

8. The parties agree to continue energetic efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The Parties will set up an appropriate committee, which will work on a standing basis, taking into account the decisions of the Security Council under the chairmanship of the United Nations, with participation of representatives of CSCE and the Russian Federation and with the involvement of international experts. This body will meet alternatively in Moscow and Geneva. Its first meeting will be held in Geneva on 19 April 1994. A phased action programme will be worked out and proposals on the re-establishment of State and legal relations will be elaborated.

9. The parties decided to take additional measures in connection with the search for missing persons and the reburial of the dead.

10. The parties, based on the fact that there is no statute of limitations applicable to war crimes, agreed to intensify efforts to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious criminal offences as defined by international and national law and bring the perpetrators to justice. Inevitable punishment shall also be inflicted on persons who try or will try to undermine the peace process in Abkhazia by resorting to arms.

For the Georgian side: *(Signed)* A. KAVSADZE

For the Abkhaz side: *(Signed)* S. JINJOLIA

In the presence of:

From the United Nations: *(Signed)* E. BRUNNER

From the Russian Federation: *(Signed)* B.PASTUKHOV

From the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: *(Signed)* V. MANNO

Annex II

QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT ON VOLUNTARY RETURN OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS SIGNED ON 4 APRIL 1994

The Abkhaz and Georgian sides, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, the Russian Federation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 901 (1994) of 4 March 1994 and 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994,

Recognizing that the right of all citizens to live in and to return to their country of origin is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Noting conclusions 18 (XXXI) and 40 (XXXVI) of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which constitute internationally agreed principles governing the repatriation of refugees,

Acting in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Parties on 1 December 1993 and especially paragraph 4, under which Parties ex-

pressed their willingness to create conditions for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons to their permanent places of residence in all regions of Abkhazia,

Recalling that resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, by which the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, ascribes to the High Commissioner the function of providing international protection to refugees and of seeking permanent solutions for the problems of refugees, *inter alia*, by promoting and facilitating their voluntary repatriation,

Given the responsibility entrusted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to act, under the Secretary-General's authority, as the international lead agency for the repatriation of displaced persons to Abkhazia,

Noting the desire of the Parties to cooperate with each other to achieve full observance of the principles and safeguards governing voluntary repatriation,

Considering the need, therefore, to establish a framework to define modalities of such cooperation for implementation of the repatriation,

Noting that the Parties agree that a repatriation operation to Abkhazia will imply, prior to its implementation, that the security and living conditions in the areas of return are guaranteed.

HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

1. The Parties agree to cooperate and to interact in planning and conducting the activities aimed to safeguard and guarantee the safe, secure and dignified return of people who have fled from areas of the conflict zone to the areas of their previous permanent residence.

2. For the purpose of the present agreement, the parties will guarantee the safety of refugees and displaced persons in the course of the voluntary repatriation and rehabilitation operations to be organized.

3. In implementing this voluntary repatriation programme, the Parties undertake to respect the following principles:

(a) Displaced persons/refugees have the right to return voluntarily to their places of origin or residence irrespective of their ethnic, social or political affiliation under conditions of complete safety, freedom and dignity;

(b) The voluntary character of the repatriation shall be ascertained and respected through appropriate arrangements;

(c) Displaced persons/refugees shall have the right to return peacefully without risk of arrest, detention, imprisonment or legal criminal proceedings.

Such immunity shall not apply to persons where there are serious evidences that they have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity as defined in international instruments and international practice as well as serious non-political crimes committed in the context of the conflict. Such immunity shall also not apply to persons who have previously taken part in the hostilities and are currently serving in armed formations, preparing to fight in Abkhazia.

Persons falling into these categories should be informed through appropriate channels of the possible consequences they may face upon return;

(d) The Parties shall ensure that returnees, upon return, will enjoy freedom of movement and establishment including the right to return to the areas where they lived prior to leaving the conflict zone or to the area of their choice;

(e) The Parties shall ensure that refugees and displaced persons, upon return, will get their expired documents (*propiska*, passport) extended and validated for their previous place of residence or the elected place of return;

(f) The Parties shall ensure that repatriants, upon return, will be protected from harassment, including unauthorized charges or fees and threat to life or property;

(g) Returnees shall, upon return, get back movable and immovable properties they left behind and should be helped to do so, or to receive whenever possible an appropriate compensation for their lost properties if return of property appears not feasible.

The Commission mentioned in paragraph 5 below will establish a mechanism for such claims. Such compensation should be worked out in the framework of the reconstruction/rehabilitation programmes to be established with a financial assistance through the United Nations Voluntary Fund;

(h) Displaced persons/refugees who choose not to return to Abkhazia shall continue to be assisted and protected until acceptable alternative solutions are found for such cases;

(i) In accordance with the fundamental principle of preserving family unity, where it is not possible for families to repatriate as units, a mechanism shall be established for their reunification in Abkhazia. Measures shall also be taken for the identification and extra care/assistance for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable persons during the repatriation process;

(j) The Parties agree that refugees and displaced persons will be guaranteed unimpeded access to all available information on the situation in the areas where repatriation will take place. Such an information should be provided in the framework of a campaign to be launched by the Commission as mentioned in paragraph 9 (b) below.

4. For the purpose of the implementation of voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees to Abkhazia, a quadripartite Commission is hereby established.

5. The principal tasks of the Commission shall be to formulate, discuss and approve plans to implement programmes for the safe, orderly and voluntary repatriation of the refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia from Georgia, the Russian Federation and within Abkhazia and for their successful reintegration. Such plans should include registration, transport, basic material assistance for a period of up to six months and rehabilitation assistance.

In order to create the conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons, the Commission will establish a working group of experts to undertake an assessment of the level of damage to the economic and social infrastructure in Abkhazia, the availability of housing and the extent of damage to houses in the areas of return as well as the projected needs in rehabilitation/ reconstruction, with financial implications. This survey should be undertaken region by region according to the plan of return to be worked out and accepted by the Parties, bearing in mind that the Parties have agreed to start the repatriation operation with the Gali region.

6. The Commission shall be composed of four members, one being designated by each of the Parties and two representing the Russian Federation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In addition, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) will designate a representative to attend the Commission's meetings in an observer capacity. If circumstances do not allow the designated CSCE representative to attend such meetings, the Commission will keep the CSCE mission in Georgia informed on a regular basis on the progress of the Commission's work.

7. Any member of the Commission may, when attending any meeting of the Commission, be accompanied by such advisers as the Party designating that member may deem necessary. Where a member of the Commission is unable to attend any meeting of the Commission, the Party concerned may designate a substitute.

8. The Commission shall meet as often as required, but no less frequently than once every month. Meetings of the Commission may be convened at the request of any of the members and shall be held on the territory of the Russian Federation, except as the members of the Commission may otherwise agree. The Parties agree to guarantee the personal security of the members of the Commission and personnel involved in the activities agreed.

The first meeting of the Commission shall be scheduled as soon as possible and no later than one week after the adoption by the Security Council of a resolution on a mechanism ensuring the security conditions in the areas of return.

9. During its first meeting, the Commission will set out the modalities of the assessment mentioned in paragraph 5 above and will establish a plan concerning:

(a) The areas where repatriation will be primarily conducted according to the level of guaranteed security and preparedness;

(b) The implementation of an information campaign among the displaced person/refugee population to encourage voluntary return;

(c) The registration process of persons expressing their willingness to return;

(d) The activities needed to safeguard the safety of returnees based on the principles set out in paragraph 3 (a) to (j) above;

(e) The needs for financial, transport and basic material assistance to displaced persons/refugees as well as projected needs for rehabilitation/reconstruction of the areas of return as mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

10. The Parties agree that representatives of refugees and displaced persons shall be provided with facilities to visit the areas of return and to see for themselves arrangements made for their return.

11. In the event of disagreement within the Commission regarding the application and interpretation of this Agreement, where such disagreement cannot amicably be settled among the members of the Commission, the Commission shall refer such disagreements to the Parties and to the Russian Federation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

THE PARTIES, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FURTHER AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) UNHCR shall have direct and unhindered access to all displaced persons/refugees from Abkhazia in order to undertake activities essential to the discharge of its mandate and operational and monitoring responsibilities;

(b) Travel shall be facilitated between and within all areas where refugees and displaced persons are located and areas of return for the personnel of the United Nations and other relevant international and non-governmental agencies cooperating with the United Nations in repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation programmes. It shall include the free use of airspace and authorized airstrips and airports for relief flights and the exemption from taxes and duties of all goods imported for use in the voluntary repatriation programme of displaced persons/refugees from Abkhazia and for the provision of relief integration and rehabilitation assistance to the Abkhazian region by the United Nations and cooperating agencies, as well as the expeditious clearance and handling of such goods;

(c) The Russian Federation will guarantee unimpeded transit of humanitarian supplies through its territory for the purposes of the present Agreement;

(d) UNHCR shall establish local offices, as deemed appropriate, at locations to be approved by the Parties concerned, to facilitate voluntary repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation;

(e) The security of the staff and property of the United Nations and the cooperating agencies shall be guaranteed;

(f) The allocation and continued use by the Parties, the United Nations and the cooperating agencies of particularly designated radio frequencies for radio communications between their offices, vehicles, and staff, in areas where refugees and displaced persons are located and in areas of return, shall be provided.

This agreement shall enter into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for the period required for the effective voluntary return of the displaced persons/refugees.

In witness whereof, the authorized representatives of the Abkhaz and Georgian sides, the Russian Federation and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, have signed the present agreement.

Done at Moscow, this fourth day of April 1994 in four originals, three in the Russian language, and one in the English language, the four texts being equally authentic but the English text being authoritative for interpretation purposes.

For the Abkhaz side
(Signed) S. JINJOLIA

For the Georgian side
(Signed) A. KAVSADZE

For the Russian Federation
(Signed) B. PASTUKHOV

For the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: *(Signed)* J. AMUNATEGUI

LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/1994/583)

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Cease-Fire and Separation-of-Forces Agreement signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 by the parties to the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia (annex I), as well as a copy of the Proposal for the Establishment of a Coordinating Commission, signed in Moscow on 11 May 1994 by the parties involved, under the aegis of the United Nations, with the participation of the Russian Federation as a facilitator and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (annex II).

I would be grateful if the present letter and the attached agreements could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

Annex I

AGREEMENT ON A CEASE-FIRE AND SEPARATION OF FORCES, SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON 14 MAY 1994

In the Declaration on Measures for a Political Settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict, signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994 (S/1994/397, annex I), the Parties committed themselves to strict compliance with a formal cease-fire from that date, and once again reaffirmed their commitment to the non-use of force or threat of the use of force against each other, as expressed in their communiqué of 13 January 1994. That commitment remains valid. This Agreement on a Cease-Fire and Separation of Forces formalizes that commitment.

1. The parties shall scrupulously observe the cease-fire on land, at sea and in the air and shall refrain from all military actions against each other.

2. The armed forces of the parties shall be separated in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The area between lines B and D on the attached map (see appendix) shall constitute a security zone. There shall be no armed forces or heavy military equipment within this zone. The territory between lines A and B and lines D and E shall constitute a restricted-weapons zone. There shall be no heavy military equipment within this zone. The local civil authorities shall function in the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone. The police/militia employed for this purpose may carry personal arms;

Heavy military equipment includes:

(i)All artillery and mortars of a calibre exceeding 80 mm;
(ii) All tanks;
(iii) All armoured transport vehicles;

(b) The peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the military observers, in accordance with the Protocol to this Agreement, shall be deployed in the security zone to monitor compliance with this Agreement;

(c) The heavy military equipment to be withdrawn from the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone shall be stored in designated areas to be determined by the parties and shall be monitored by United Nations military observers;

(d) Under the supervision of representatives of the peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States and United Nations observers, with the participation of representatives of the parties from the Kodori valley, the troops of the Republic of Georgia shall be withdrawn to their places of deployment beyond the frontiers of Abkhazia;

A regular patrol of the peace-keeping force and international observers shall be organized concurrently in the Kodori valley;

(e) All volunteer formations made up of persons from beyond the frontiers of Abkhazia shall be disbanded and withdrawn;

(f) The movement of units and subunits of the peace-keeping force and of the international observers outside the security zone in the relevant areas shall be subject to agreement with the parties;

(g) United Nations military observers shall also monitor the coastal waters and airspace between lines A and D;

(h) In the event of an attack or a direct military threat against the peace-keeping force, it shall take appropriate measures for its safety and self-defence.

3. The precise demarcation on a detailed map and a plan for the separation of forces in the initial phase of the deployment of the peace-keeping force shall be worked out by the command of the peace-keeping force with the participation of the parties in the context of a step-by-step, comprehensive settlement, with a continuation of the return of refugees and displaced persons and in compliance with this Agreement, in a working group, which shall begin its work to this end in Moscow within five days after the signing of this Agreement. It shall complete this task within five days. Disengagement shall commence five days after the working group has completed its task. The process of disengagement shall be completed no later than 10 days after it has commenced.

4. A map indicating the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone is contained in the appendix.

Protocol. The Protocol concerning the peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States is as follows:

"The parties agree that:

"The function of the peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States shall be to exert its best efforts to maintain the cease-fire and to see that it is scrupulously observed. Further, its presence should promote the safe return of refugees and displaced persons, especially to the Gali district. It shall supervise the implementation of the Agreement and the Protocol thereto with regard to the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone. In carrying out its mission, the force shall comply with local laws and regulations and shall not impede the functioning of the local civil administration. It shall enjoy freedom of movement in the security zone and the restricted-weapons zone and freedom of communications, and other facilities needed to fulfil its mission.

"The peace-keeping force of the Commonwealth of Independent States shall operate under the Interim Unified Command and the Commander of the Peace-keeping Force."

5. The process of achieving a comprehensive political settlement shall be pursued.

6. The parties appeal to the United Nations Security Council to expand the mandate of the United Nations military observers in order to provide for their participation in the operations indicated above.

7. On the basis of the statement by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States dated 15 April 1994 (S/1994/476, annex), the parties appeal to the Council to take a decision on the

use of a collective peace-keeping force within the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

For the Georgian side: *(Signed)* J. IOSELIANI

For the Abkhaz side: *(Signed)* S. JINJOLIA

[Map omitted]

Annex II

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COORDINATING COMMISSION, SIGNED IN MOSCOW ON 11 MAY 1994

1. Both parties to the conflict agree to establish a Coordinating Commission to discuss practical matters of mutual interest (energy, transport, communications, ecology and so on). The Commission will be established for the transitional period until the conflict has been resolved.

2. The Coordinating Commission will work in the town of Sochi. At its first meeting, which will take place on 1 June 1994, the Commission will be chaired by a representative of the Russian Federation. Further meetings will be chaired alternately by representatives of both parties, unless agreed otherwise.

3. Both parties to the conflict will each designate four representatives of their choice to the Coordinating Commission. Both parties invite representatives of the United Nations, the Russian Federation and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to participate as observers in the work of the Commission. In discussion of matters affecting both the interests of the parties and territory of the Russian Federation, the representatives of the latter will take part in the work of the Commission with the rights of a delegation.

4. By the first meeting of the Coordinating Commission the parties to the conflict will prepare proposals for the programme of work of the Coordinating Commission, including those to be discussed at its first meeting. Both parties welcome the readiness of the observers to present their proposals for the programme of work of the Commission.

5. Proposals for the work of the Coordinating Commission will be prepared taking into account the provisions of paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides of 1 December 1993 (S/26875, appendix).

6. The Commission will act without prejudice to the work of the standing committee agreed on in the Moscow declaration of 4 April 1994 (S/1994/397, annex I).

7. Both parties agree to take all decisions by consensus of delegations.

8. Participation in the Coordinating Commission will not prejudge the legal positions of both parties with regard to the future status of Abkhazia.

For the Georgian side: *(Signed)* J. IOSELIANI

For the Abkhaz side: *(Signed)* S. JINJOLIA

In the presence of:

From the United Nations: *(Signed)* E. BRUNNER

From the Russian Federation: *(Signed)* B. PASTUKHOV

From the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe: *(Signed)* V. MANNO

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